

Vascular Plants of Williamson County
Eragrostis cilianensis – STINKGRASS [Poaceae]

Eragrostis cilianensis (All.) Janch., STINKGRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, shoots decumbent to ascending, in range to 38 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, to 6 leaves per shoot, stem bent at each node (geniculate), having small, craterlike glands on leaves and inflorescence, somewhat odorous when crushed. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, smooth, glabrous, at top of culm below the lowest branch of inflorescence having a set of craterlike glands; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open and $> 360^\circ$ at base, < 80 mm long, $<$ internode, somewhat keeled, conspicuously pilose-ciliate on margins from below midsheath, without lobes (auricles) at top, having a vertical row of craterlike glands along keel base-to-top and often along several principal veins approaching top, at top with pilose hairs to 4 mm long; ligule of white hairs, to 1 mm long; collar on outer surface short-hairy next to long hairs of sheath; blade linear, $< 100\text{--}270 \times < 4\text{--}8$ mm, the widest near the base, the longest blade just below flag leaf, flat when fresh and finely striped, minutely serrate and with craterlike glands on margins, parallel-veined with veins slightly raised on upper surface, having micropapillate along veins and somewhat scabrous especially above midblade. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, open, ovoid panicle, with ascending lateral branches, each branch often with 8 spikelets, each lateral branch and wavy minor axis with pulvinus in axil, spikelets having 7–15+ florets (fewer when young), stalk of spikelet (pedicel) mostly 1–3 mm long, $<$ spikelet, with 1–2 glands on stalk within 1 mm of spikelet. **Spikelet:** initially ovate compressed side-to-side, at flowering 5–8 mm long, membranous with set of parallel green veins on each side (lemma), lemma sometimes aging purplish; rachilla internodes 0.5 mm long; breaking below each floret but with pale persistent along rachilla; **glumes** 2, subequal, membranous, lower glume membranous with green keel, keel scabrous above midpoint, with 1–2 craterlike glands along keel, upper glume ca. 2.1 mm long, with 3 green veins but lateral veins only to midpoint, keel usually with 2 glands; **lemma** boat-shaped and keeled, 1–2(–2.6) mm long, width $>$ length, 3-veined (1-veined if short), keel green with 1–3 craterlike glands on exposed portion of keel, lateral veins green and ca. 0.3 mm from margins; **palea** 2-veined, membranous, $<$ lemma, 2-keeled with margins strongly folded along green keels, keels short-ciliate. **Flower: perianth (locules)** narrowly wedge-shaped, to 0.2 mm long, colorless; **stamens** 3, free; filaments fine threadlike, 1.5 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.5 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1, ca. 1.5 mm long; ovary superior, ovoid compressed, ca. 0.5 mm long, greenish, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, diverging from top of ovary, threadlike, ca. 1 mm long, colorless-white, stigmatic and \pm feathery with short branches above midpoint. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), subspheroid to ovoid, $0.55\text{--}0.7 \times 0.5$ mm, light brown.

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